

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MONTEV 01495 071226Z

42

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TAGS: PFOR, UY, US, VS

SUBJ: EL PAIS COMMENTS ON THE U.S. AND VIETNAM

REFS: A) STATE 86289; B) MVD 1189; C) MVD 1266

1. IN A MAY 3 EDITORIAL ENTITLED "THE PEACE OF 'THE GULAG ARCHIPELAGO' IN VIETNAM", EL PAIS SAID THAT A REPRESSIVE PEACE HAS DESCENDED OVER VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA, AND THAT THEIR NEIGHBORS ARE NOW IN TERRIBLE DANGER.

2. "IN ALL OF THIS," EL PAIS CONTINUED, "THE UNITED STATES HAS BEEN DAMAGED MATERIALLY AND MORALLY." AFTER ENUMERATING U.S. CASUALTIES AND EXPENDITURES, EL PAIS ADDED "AND THE LOSSES IN PRESTIGE, IN CREDIBILITY AND IN SELF-CONFIDENCE CANNOT BE COMPUTED IN NUMBERS, BUT THEY ARE OF VERY LARGE DIMENSIONS. THESE DIMENSIONS ARE GREATER THAN IS JUSTIFIED BY THE REALITY OF THE MATTER BECAUSE OF THE ANTI-U.S. PHOBIA THAT PREVAILS IN THE WORLD'S INFORMATION MEDIA, AND ACTIVIST OPINION ALL OVER THE WORLD HAS TRIED TO MAKE AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF THIS EPISODE AND TO AFFECT BEYOND REASON THE IMAGE OF THE GREAT WESTERN POWER." THE EDITORIAL THEN POINTED OUT WITH IRONY THAT IN THE BEGINNING OF THE CONFLICT THE U.S. HAD BEEN CRITICIZED FOR DOING TOO MUCH, AND NOW "WITH THE SAME VIRULENCE AND THE SAME SKILLFUL PROPAGANDA WITH WHICH IT WAS ATTACKED FOR BEING INTERVENTIONIST, IT IS REPROACHED FOR NOT HAVING INTERVENED."

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PAGE 02 MONTEV 01495 071226Z

3. AFTER NOTING THAT "WE ARE NOT GOING TO DEFEND THE U.S. IN ALL THIS SAD HISTORY OF VIETNAM," EL PAIS RECOUNTED THAT HISTORY AND COMMENTED," THE U.S. FAITHFULLY OBSERVED ITS PART OF THE PARIS PEACE TREATY...THE SIN OF THOSE WHO DETERMINED THE POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES WAS TO BELIEVE THAT THOSE WHO SAT DOWN AT THE PEACE TABLE DID SO IN GOOD FAITH, AND THAT FOR ALL THE PARTICIPANTS A TREATY WAS A SACRED TEXT TO BE OBSERVED." AFTERWARD, THE U.S. COULD NOT RE-INTRODUCE TROOPS INTO SOUTH VIETNAM BECAUSE "THE PREVIOUS ACCUSATIONS HAD DONE THEIR WORK, AND THE U.S. WAS NEITHER SPIRITUALLY NOR INTELLECTUALLY PREPARED TO INVOLVE ITSELF IN ANOTHER CHAPTER OF THE NIETNAM WAR; THUS, THE CURTAIN FELL ON THIS TREMENDOUS EPISODE, TO THE REJOICING OF THE COMMUNISTS AND THEIR FRIENDS, AND TO THE DISGRACE OF DEMOCRATIC CONSCIENCES."

4. EL PAIS CONCLUDED, "IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE WORLD OF WESTERN DEMOCRACY TO RETAKE THE INITIATIVE AND DEMONSTRATE THAT IT IS CAPABLE OF ACTING IN ITS OWN DEFENSE AND OF RECOGNIZING CONDUCT CONTRARY TO ITS INTERESTS. THE BATTLE OF VIETNAM WAS FOUGHT NOT ONLY IN THE INDOCHINESE JUNGLES, BUT ALSO IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES OF THE WORLD, IN THE PUBLIC PLAZAS OF EVERY CITY, AND IN THE CABLED REPORTS AND THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS, AND THE OVERWHELMING TRUTH IS THAT IT WAS LOST IN ALL THOSE PLACES. THIS CANNOT HAPPEN AGAIN, IF THE LOSS OF VIETNAM IS NOT TO BE THE LOSS OF THE WORLD."

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